

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

In re:

Rancher's Legacy Meat Co.,

Chapter 11

Debtor.

Case 19-32928

Rancher's Legacy Meat Co., as Debtor-in-Possession and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Rancher's Legacy Meat Co.,

Plaintiffs,

Adversary Proceeding 19-03095

v.

Great Western Bank,

Defendant, Counter-Claim-Claimant
Cross-Claimant, and
Third Party Plaintiff,

v.

James L. Ratcliff,

Defendant and Cross-Defendant,

v.

James N. Ratcliff, Jeffrey K. Fredin,
and Curtis D. Fredin,

Third Party Defendant.

**THIRD AMENDED SCHEDULING ORDER AND ORDER FOR TRIAL AND FOR USE
OF ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE**

This matter came before the court on the stipulation of the parties to amend the Court's April 15, 2020 Amended Scheduling Order and Order for Trial and For Use of Electronic Evidence. Based on the parties' stipulation and all of the files, records, and proceedings in this case,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The parties must participate in a mediation before **August 31, 2020** assuming that the bankruptcy judge to which this matter is referred has availability to complete the mediation on or before that date.

2. James N. Ratcliff, James L. Ratcliff, Curtis D. Fredin, and Jeffrey K. Fredin must respond to Great Western's crossclaims and third-party claims, whether by motion or answer no later than **September 21, 2020**.

3. All discovery in this matter shall be concluded no later **October 15, 2020**.

4. All dispositive or non-dispositive motions, including those relating to discovery, shall be filed on or before **October 30, 2020**.

5. This proceeding is set for trial in Courtroom 7 West, United States Courthouse, 300 South Fourth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota, **December 15, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.**

6. On or before **December 1, 2020**, all parties are expected to confer and enter into stipulations as to the following:

- a) Waiver of objections to the admissibility of exhibits on the grounds of lack of identification or foundation where the identification or foundation is not to be contested;
- b) Waiver of objections to the admissibility of depositions proposed to be offered in evidence, if any; and
- c) Facts which are not disputed. This stipulation shall be reduced to writing in a form which can be adopted by the Court as Findings of Fact.

At this conference, counsel shall exchange copies of each exhibit intended to be introduced and relied upon at trial. The exhibits shall be pre-marked as required in paragraph 5(d) of this order.

7. ***Use of Courtroom Technology:*** Counsel must use the evidence presentation system available in the courtroom when examining witnesses and introducing documentary evidence.

Training is required for all parties who wish to present evidence or testimony at the trial. Please contact Susan Newsom, at 612-664-5211, on or before December 8, 2020, to schedule training.

8. No later than **December 8, 2020**, the parties shall prepare, serve and file the following:

- a) The stipulations regarding admissibility of exhibits and depositions;
- b) The stipulation of undisputed facts;
- c) A final witness list containing the names, addresses and a brief summary of the testimony of each witness the party will call. A person not shown on this list may not testify during the party's case-in-chief;
- d) A final exhibit list containing a description of all exhibits to be offered at trial. Exhibits not listed on this list may not be offered during the party's case-in-chief. *The plaintiff shall designate all exhibits by number and the defendant shall designate all exhibits by letter;*
- e) A list of depositions to be offered at trial;
- f) A brief containing a complete chronology of the party's version of the facts and a complete statement of the law on which the party relies;
- g) Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law; and
- h) **On or before December 8, 2020, counsel shall submit to my court recorder, Susan Newsom, at 300 S. 4th Street, Suite 301, Minneapolis, MN 55415, a full set of electronic exhibits.**
 - i. ***Acceptable media:*** The preferred medium for submission of electronic exhibits is a CD-ROM, but flash drives are also acceptable. Media should be checked for viruses before submission to the Court.
 - ii. ***Document format:*** Documentary evidence shall be submitted in .pdf format, with the exception of exhibits originally generated in Excel format, which shall be submitted in Excel format. Photographs shall be submitted in .pdf format at a resolution of 300 dpi.
 - iii. ***Naming exhibits:*** Electronic exhibits must be identified on the flash drive or CD as required in Term 6.d. above, with the submitting party's full name or abbreviated name added after the number or letter of the exhibit. Exhibit names should clearly reflect the content of the exhibit and include the date the document was signed or created. Combining exhibits in a single .pdf is not permitted.

For example:

1-ABC CORP-Amended Petition-010115.pdf
2-ABC CORP-Deposition transcript of Mr. X-020715.pdf

A-SMITH-Federal Tax Returns-2015.pdf
B-SMITH-Email from Mr. X to Ms. Y-032215.pdf

Counsel should ***not*** add the exhibit names to the pdf versions of the electronic exhibits themselves; these names are solely for use in identifying the documents on the CD or flashdrive presented to the court.

7. Unless the parties agree otherwise by written stipulation, Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3) and (f), do not apply in this adversary proceeding.

8. No scheduling or pre-trial conference shall be held in this matter unless requested in writing by counsel for any party. Any request for such conference shall state the reasons therefor, and a copy must be provided to counsel for all other parties to this proceeding.

9. Counsel should understand that, except as altered by this Court, after proper request, dates fixed hereby are mandatory. Deadlines shall not be extended except for good cause. No motion shall be heard unless filed prior to the expiration of the deadline set. The Court reserves the right to act upon such motions without a hearing, if circumstances so mandate.

10. Private Information. To avoid the inadvertent disclosure of private data and other sensitive information, counsel and parties unrepresented by counsel shall refrain from eliciting or mentioning during trial, or including in exhibits, or any other submissions required by this order, any of the following restricted information, except in the manner noted:

- a) Social Security numbers: use only the last four digits;
- b) Financial account numbers: use only the last four digits;
- c) Names of minor children: use only initials;
- d) Dates of birth: use only year of birth; and
- e) Home addresses of witnesses: use only city and state of residence.

If restricted information is mentioned in court, counsel or any party may ask to have it stricken from the record or partially redacted to conform to the judiciary's privacy policy.

11. The parties shall discuss settlement and report to the Court on the status of these discussions. Upon settlement, each party has an independent obligation to notify the calendar clerk, within 24 hours, that a settlement agreement has been reached.

12. Failure to timely comply with this order may result in the imposition of sanctions under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7016 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f).

Dated *July 26, 2020*

/s/ *Michael E. Ridgway*

Hon. Michael E. Ridgway
Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge

NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC ENTRY AND FILING ORDER OR JUDGMENT Filed and Docket Entry made on <i>07/27/2020</i> Lori Vosejpka, Clerk, by HJ
